Internet facility is provided in rural and urban areas.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Purchase orders are yet to be placed and as per present indications, it is expected that the network will roll out in the next financial year.

Ratio of Rural and Urban Telephone

1207. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rural and urban telephone ratio to population at the end of each of the last five financial years;

(b) India's stand in terms of Tele-density in comparison with other countries;

(c) what are the projections during the next five years; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to acheive this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The tele-density for urban and rural areas for the period 1997-2001 is given in statement-I *(See* below).

(b) A comparative picture of tele-density in India and other selected countries at the end of 1998 is given in Statement-II *(See* below). This shows that India's tele-density was only 1.9 per hundred population as against the world average of 14.6.

(c) The projections for the next five years i.e. for the year ending 2002 to 2006 are given in Statement-Ill *(See* below). At this rate, the target of 15 telephone per 100 population by the end of 2010 laid down in National Telecom Policy (NTP), 1999 is expected to be achieved.

(d) The Government has proposed to achieve the tele-density in the following manners:—

(1) Provision of universal service to all uncovered areas, including rural areas.

(2) Encouragement to development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff structure and making provision of rural communications mandatory for all fixed service providers.

Statement-I

Tele-density for from and rural areas Ratio of

Urban & Rural Telephones toper 100 Population

Year	Total	Urban	Rural
1996-1997	1.56	4.80	0.34
1997-1998	1.93	5.51	0.43
1998-1999	2.32	6.49	0.52
1999-2000	2.86	7.64	0.68
2000-2001	3.58	10.16	0.93

Statement-H

Telephones per 100 Population in Selcted Countries

SI. No.	Countries	Tele-density 1998
I.	U.S.A.	66.1
2.	Canada	63.4
3.	Germany	56.7
4.	U.K.	55.7
5.	Russia	19.7
6.	China	7.0
7.	Indonesia	2.7
8.	India	1.9*
9.	Sri Lanka	2.8
10.	Bangladesh	3.0
11.	Nepal	8.0
12.	Pakistan	1.9
	World	14.6

* Since has gone upto 3.58 (including Cellular Mobile & Private Basic Phones as on 31st March, 2001)

Source: World Devleopmcnt Report 1999/2000 (Except for India)

Statement-Ill

Expansion of Telecom Network (Fixed & Cellular): 2002-2006 Estimated

Year ending 31st March	Total# (In Million)	Tel-density
2002	46.11	4.49
2003	56.52	5.42
2004	69.30	6.54
2005	84.99	7.89
2006	104.24	9.53

These are the cumulative DELs at the end of each year i.e. March 31st

Projection are based on present policy frame-work and the normal economic growth.

Opening of new post offices

1208. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMUN1CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed by Government for opening of new post offices;

(b) the number of new post offices opened in the country during the last three years State-wise;

(c) whether Government have opened any new post offices in Orissa during 2001-2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The norms prescribed by Government for opening of new post offices, are given in Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) The number of new post offices opened int he country during the last three years State-wise is given in Statement-II *(See* below).

(c) and (d) New post offices have been opened at Badagudagadia, District Mayurbhanj and Purunaguma, District Kalahandi of Orissa during the year 2001-2002.